

Good afternoon OHSHH Committee members,

My name is Jason Calkins, and I am an electronic cigarette user. I am writing to urge you to vote NO on HB 4115 because it will ban SMOKE FREE electronic cigarette use wherever smoking is prohibited.

I was previously a one pack a day traditional cigarette smoker for almost 18 years. I started using an electronic cigarette on April 19, 2013, and I haven't had a single traditional cigarette since I purchased my electronic cigarette. I, like many electronic cigarette users, tried all the other NRT products like prescription Chantix, nicotine gum, patches, lozenges, and even tried cold turkey more than five separate times in order to quit my traditional cigarette habit. All my previous attempts failed and I felt completely out of control. The guilt and shame of being a cigarette smoker and one that cannot quit is overwhelming and often times would lead me to smoke more cigarettes.

I have made many lifestyle adjustments to avoid traditional cigarette smoking, and have worked hard to avoid certain situations (like being around traditional cigarette smokers) that could lead me to making a terrible mistake and trying a traditional cigarette again. Much of this effort it has been supported by my local electronic cigarette store, local electronic cigarette friendly bars and restaurants that *do not push me back outside to be around traditional smokers.*

Please understand that:

- Smoking bans are enacted to protect the public from the harm of secondhand smoke, but ***e-cigarettes have not been shown to cause harm to bystanders.*** In fact, ***all evidence to date shows that the low health risks associated with e-cigarettes are comparable to other smokeless nicotine products.***
- ***A published [comprehensive review](#) by Dr. Igor Burstyn of Drexel University School of Public Health based on over 9,000 observations of e-cigarette liquid and vapor found "no apparent concern" for bystanders exposed to e-cigarette vapor, even under "worst case" assumptions about exposure.***
- Electronic cigarette use is easy to distinguish from actual smoking. Although some e-cigarettes resemble real cigarettes, many do not. It is easy to tell when someone lights a cigarette from the smell of smoke. E-cigarette vapor is practically odorless, and generally any detectable odor is not unpleasant and smells nothing like smoke. Additionally, e-cigarette users can decide whether to release any vapor ("discreet vaping"). With so little evidence of use, ***enforcing indoor use bans on electronic cigarettes would be nearly impossible.***

- The ability to use electronic cigarettes in public spaces will actually improve public health by inspiring other smokers to switch. Surveys of thousands of users indicate that ***the majority of those who switch completely replace tobacco cigarettes with the electronic cigarettes, reducing their health risks by an estimated 99%***.

I urge each of you to visit the Consumer Advocates for Smoke-free Alternatives (www.casaa.org) website as well as the [CASAA Research Library](#), for more information.

I also urge each of you to please vote ***NO on HB 4115***, let's gather the available scientific evidence and make smart, pragmatic regulations and ordinances. Afterall, this is Oregon, not Texas or Mississippi.

Have a great evening, and thank you for your time.

Best regards,

Jason Calkins

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